

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 - 25 (cancelled).

26. (currently amended) An interface system at a base station in a cell within a cellular wireless network for providing bi-directional wireless communications to Network Interface Units (NIUs) at customer sites within the cell, ~~each of said NIUs~~ base station having a highly directional antenna for providing a point to point inter-cell radio link for communicating with a base station in a neighboring cell, the interface system further comprising a multi-services switch equipped with one or more first radio interface cards for providing wireless communications between the base station and the NIUs via said highly directional antenna and one or more second radio interface cards for providing the point to point inter-cell radio link.

27. (previously added) An interface system as defined in claim 26 wherein said cellular wireless network has a plurality of cells, each having a base station for providing wireless communications to NIUs within each cell and for providing a point to point inter-cell radio link with other base stations within the network.

28. (previously added) An interface system as defined in claim 27 wherein one of the base stations is controlled by a network manager to provide configuration parameters for each of said one or more first and said one or more second interface cards
5 in each of the multi-services switch in each base station.

29. (previously added) An interface system as defined in claim 28 wherein the cellular wireless network is connected to an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network.

30. (previously added) An interface system as defined in claim 26 wherein each cell is sub-divided into sectors and each base station has a sectored antenna for communicating with NIUS located in each sector within the cell.

31. (previously added) An interface system as defined in claim 30 wherein each of said one or more interface cards and each of said one or more second interface cards communicates with said sectored antenna via one or more combiners.

32. (previously added) An interface system as defined in claim 27 wherein said inter-cell radio link between respective base stations is in a ring configuration, wherein one of the base stations is connected to a network and a network manager, and each

5 of said other base stations is in bidirectional communication with said one base station over inter-cell radio links.

33. (previously added) An interface system as defined in claim 27 wherein said inter-cell radio link between respective base stations is in a mesh configuration.

34. (currently amended) A base station in a cell of a cellular, wireless communications network for providing wireless, bi-directional communication with network interface units (NIUs) within the cell, the base station further having a highly directional antenna for providing a point to point inter-cell radio link with a base station in a neighboring cell, ~~the base station having~~ and a multi-services switch equipped with a first radio interface card for providing the wireless, bi-directional communication between the base station and the NIUs and a second interface card for providing the point to point radio inter-cell link, said radio ~~interference~~ interface cards being, selectively, one of the following: frequency division multiple access (FDMA) or time division multiple access (TDMA).

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35. (previously added) A base station as defined in claim 34, wherein said cell is sub-divided into multiple sectors and said multi-services switch is equipped with a first radio interface card for each sector.

36. (previously added) A base station as defined in claim 35 connected to an Asynchronous Transfer Mode backbone for providing broadband wireless service to said NIUs.

37. (previously added) A base station as defined in claim 35 connected to a network manager for receiving configuration parameters respecting said first and second radio interface cards.

38. (previously added) A base station as defined in claim 37 wherein said configuration parameters include; operating frequencies, modulation rates, forward error correction values, and transmission power levels.

39. (previously added) A base station as defined in claim 35 wherein said second interface card is equipped to provide point to point, bi-directional radio communication with base stations in neighboring cells over said radio inter-cell link.

40. (previously added) A base station as defined in claim 39 wherein said radio inter-cell link is in a ring configuration.

41. (previously added) A base station as defined in claim 39 wherein said radio, intercell link is in a mesh configuration.

42. (previously added) A method of providing communications between base stations in a cellular, wireless network having multiple cells, each of the multiple cells having a base station, the method comprising: providing a multi-services switch at each of the base stations, each switch being equipped with a radio interface card for providing point to point bi-directional communication with other base stations in the network; providing a network manager in association with at least one of the base stations for configuring the radio interface cards, and providing a directional antenna for each multi-services switch to support point to point bi-directional communication between base stations over a radio inter-cell link.

43. (previously added) The method as defined in claim 42 wherein each of said cells is sub-divided into multiple sectors and said multi-services switch is equipped with second radio interface cards for each sector, said second radio interface cards for wireless, bi-directional communication with network interface units (NIUs) within each sector.

44. (previously added) The method as defined in claim 43 wherein said network manager configures said radio interface cards with respect to operating frequencies, modulation rates, forward error correction values, and transmission power levels.

- 45. (cancelled)
- 46. (cancelled).
- 47. (cancelled).
- 48. (cancelled)